

America's Next Top Trial Lawyer



UCLA School of Law

OFFICIAL RULES

Competition Rules:

1. **Eligibility.** Any current law student seeking a J.D. is eligible. Each student is limited to one submission. There is no limit to the number of students who may participate from each school.
2. **School Affiliation.** Your video submission may not reference the school you are from.
3. **Assistance.** Advocates may seek assistance from whomever they like. Collaboration with coaches, classmates, and professors is encouraged but the submission must be the student's original work. Use of AI generated submissions is strictly prohibited.
4. **The Case.** The competition features *The People of the State of Gold v. Jesse Saucedo*. This is a domestic violence homicide case.
5. **Party.** Choose whether to represent the People of the State of Gold or the Defendant, Mr. Saucedo.
6. **Time Limit.** Your closing argument may not exceed 8 minutes.
7. **Evidence.** Assume that the People called Billy Saucedo and Michael Jones, and the Defense called Jesse Saucedo and John Saucedo. Assume that all exhibits and facts in the case file were admitted at trial. You may cite or show the jury instructions in your closing argument.
8. **Rules of the Court.** Competitors are expected to use professional court demeanor.
9. Exhibits and **Demonstrative Aids.** Visual aids are limited to the exhibits provided in the materials within the case.
10. **Submission.** The deadline to create your video is January 9, 2026. Please complete a submission form, and upload your video submission here:
<https://justicebeyondcourtroom.org/americas-next-top-trial-lawyer>
11. **Questions?** Email Catrina Ranum at RanumC@sacda.org



COUNTY OF GOLD POLICE REPORT

TO: Chief of Police

FROM: Officer Daniel Danyelson, Badge #148 & Officer Gerald Jackson III, Badge #422

DATE: July 2, 2025

SUBJECT: Homicide Investigation of Amanda Saucedo, Incident #2025-0701-12345

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION

On July 1, 2025, at approximately 1830 hours, officers responded to a 911 call reporting a domestic disturbance and potential shooting at 123 Elm Street, City in Gold County. Upon arrival, officers found a female victim, later identified as Amanda Saucedo (DOB: 09/15/1990), deceased in the kitchen. She had sustained multiple gunshot wounds to the torso and head. A male suspect, identified as Jesse Saucedo (DOB: 03/20/1988), was located hiding in nearby bushes and was taken into custody without incident. The scene was secured and an initial investigation was conducted.

The investigation included interviewing four individuals: the victim's son, Billy Saucedo (DOB: 12/05/2015), the victim's alleged lover, Michael Jones (DOB: 06/10/1985), the suspect, Jesse Saucedo, and the suspect's brother, John Saucedo (DOB: 08/22/1987).

NARRATIVE OF EVENTS

On July 1, 2025, at approximately 1815 hours, officers received a 911 call reporting gunshots at 123 Elm Street. Upon arrival at the scene, officers found Amanda Saucedo deceased in the kitchen. Her son, Billy Saucedo, age 9, was present in the home but was unharmed. Witnesses directed officers to the location of the suspect, Jesse Saucedo, who was found hiding in a bush a short distance from the residence. Mr. Saucedo was taken into custody.

WITNESS STATEMENTS:

BILLY SAUCEDO (Victim's Son)

Officer Daniel Danyelson (Badge #148) conducted an interview with Billy Saucedo, age 9, at the scene. Billy reported that his mother was in the kitchen making her "world famous enchiladas" when his father, Jesse Saucedo, arrived home. Billy stated his father was "acting weird again," as he does when he drinks his "crazy sodas," which Billy associates with his father being mean.

Billy stated that after his father arrived, he went to the bathroom, and then came out "storming" and "yelling." He heard his father say, "what the h-e-double-hockey-sticks is going on?" before his mother pulled him away from the kitchen. Billy peeked back into the kitchen and saw his mother holding a knife she had been using for dinner preparations. She appeared scared while asking his father to calm down. Billy then heard his mother "sorta gasp and yell, 'what are you doing?'" followed by "loud banging sounds." He heard his father say, "you can thank Mike for that."

Billy stated that after the bangs, his father went outside to speak with his brother, John Saucedo, before running down the street. Billy also stated he saw the knife on the floor somewhere in the kitchen or living room after the incident, not on the counter as depicted in a photo he took for social media before the incident. He did not recall seeing any blood on the knife. He also expressed his worry for his mother, stating that she "is always so scared of dad."

MICHAEL JONES (Alleged Lover)

Officer Gerald Jackson III (Badge #422) interviewed Michael Jones, who stated he was giving the victim's son piano lessons and was also having a two-month-long affair with the victim. Jones described Jesse Saucedo as a "jerk" and a "total hot head" who would scream at his wife over minor issues. Jones claimed that Jesse was physically abusive, citing an instance where Amanda Saucedo came to his home with a black eye, which she reportedly attributed to Jesse becoming angry over her enchilada recipe.

Jones denied that Amanda was violent with her husband, despite admitting she was arrested for stabbing someone in a fight as a teenager, which she claimed was self-defense. Jones also provided a screenshot of a text message exchange with the victim from his phone (Exhibit 2).

JESSE SAUCEDO (Suspect)

Officer Daniel Danyelson (Badge #148) interviewed Jesse Saucedo after advising him of his Miranda rights, which he voluntarily waived. Saucedo claimed the events were a "blur" due to having consumed four "Four Lokos." He stated that upon returning home, he received an anonymous text message with a video showing his wife having an affair. He claims he "blacked out," grabbed his gun from his nightstand, and went to the kitchen to confront his wife, intending only to "scare her."

Saucedo stated that his wife denied the affair, and as they argued, she picked up a knife and "started charging after" him. He then heard "loud popping sounds" and realized he had shot her. He claimed he left the gun in the house, dropped it, and ran because he was scared. He admitted to destroying his cell phone to hide evidence of his side business selling marijuana. When asked who sent the video, he claimed not to know and suggested the officers talk to his brother, John Saucedo, who he claims saw the entire incident.

JOHN SAUCEDO (Suspect's Brother)

Officer Gerald Jackson III (Badge #422) interviewed John Saucedo, who stated he was staying with his brother after being released from prison. John claimed that his brother "didn't do nothin'," and that the victim "did that to herself." He stated that he witnessed the incident, corroborating Jesse's story that he came home from work and went into the bedroom. John claimed he heard Jesse yell, "Are you kidding me...That's it!!" and rummage for something. He then saw Jesse slam the door open and confront Amanda, who turned to him with a knife in her hand.

John claimed that Jesse did not point the gun at Amanda until she pointed the knife at him. He stated that Amanda then "lunged at him with the knife," and he heard 6 gunshots. John also stated that his brother has a "very successful conflict resolution system" when asked about his brother's history of violence. John also confirmed that he was the person who posted a cryptic message on social media (Exhibit 4) but claimed it was "all talk." When asked about the video Jesse mentioned, John grew evasive, claiming not to know about it before eventually admitting, "That video is just like he described."

EVIDENCE COLLECTED

Exhibit 1: A photograph taken by Billy Saucedo before the incident, showing the kitchen counter with ingredients for enchiladas. The photo shows the knife on the counter.

Exhibit 2: A screenshot of text messages between the victim and Michael Jones, provided by Jones.

Exhibit 3: A photograph of the gun, located on the kitchen floor near the victim. The suspect, Jesse Saucedo, identified it as his.

Exhibit 4: A social media post made by John Saucedo after the incident.

The body of Amanda Saucedo was transported to the medical examiner's office. This report will be supplemented as new information becomes available.

End of Report.



STATEMENT OF BILLY SAUCEDO

On July 1, 2025, I, Officer Daniel Danyelson, Badge #148, interviewed witness Billy Saucedo, son of Jesse and Amanda Saucedo. He provided the following statement. Below is a full and complete copy of that statement.

Officer: Hey bud, how old are you?

Billy: I'm 9. Do you know if my mom is okay?

Officer: Someone's going to come and talk to you about your mom in a minute. For now, let's talk about what happened today. Did you see anything?

Billy: Well, I got home from school and mom was making dinner. It was her world famous enchiladas, they're my favorite. I was working on my homework in the kitchen while she was chopping up the chiles. And then dad got home and things got bad.

Officer: What do you mean, bad?

Billy: He was acting weird again. Like how he does when he drinks his "crazy sodas." Mom says we're not allowed to talk to him when he's drinking his sodas because he gets mean. But they must be pretty good sodas, he's always chugging them.

Officer: Ok. Do you know where your dad was before he got home?

Billy: No. I think maybe he was with Uncle Johnny, because Uncle Johnny was hanging out on the front porch after dad got back.

Officer: Do you see your Uncle Johnny a lot?

Billy: Not really. He's been gone for a while now. I think he went to jail for something bad but I don't know for sure. He scares me. I don't like him.

Officer: Why don't you like him?

Billy: He always played mean games.

Officer: What do you mean?

Billy: He would take things from me like my allowance I got for mowing lawns and lie about taking it.

Officer: Did you ever tell your mom or dad about that?

Billy: Yeah, my mom would listen but my dad didn't care.

Officer: What do you mean your dad didn't care?

Billy: He would just say things like, "well, you better be tougher next time!" How am I supposed to fight him, he's a grown-up? I'm a kid!

Officer: I hear you. Let's go back to the night your dad hurt your mom. What happened when your dad got home?

Billy: He came inside, said hi to mom, and then he went into the bathroom. Mom kept making dinner and then he came storming back in. I could tell he was mad.

Officer: Why do you think he was mad?

Billy: Well he was kinda yelling. I heard him say, "what the h-e-double-hockey-sticks is going on?" He said the real word but I'm not allowed to. But then mom grabbed my arm and made me leave the kitchen so I couldn't really hear what he said next.

Officer: Did you see what your mom did next?

Billy: Well dad was still yelling, I know that. When I peeked back into the kitchen, mom was asking him to calm down. She looked scared. But she kept chopping those chiles up for the enchiladas which was good because I was getting a little hungry. She seemed like she was just kinda trying to ignore him. But Dad kept yelling and that's when I heard mom sorta gasp and yell, "what are you doing?" Then I heard those loud banging sounds. I didn't see what happened after that but I heard dad say something.

Officer: What'd he say?

Billy: Something like, "you can thank Mike for that." But I don't know anyone named Mike so I don't know what he's talking about.

Officer: Did your dad stay in the house?

Billy: No, he went outside to where Uncle Johnny was. I heard them whispering, then saw dad run down the street.

Officer: Was your mom holding the knife the whole time?

Billy: Yeah, pretty sure she was. I don't remember seeing her let go of it until after I heard the loud bangs.

Officer: What was she doing with it?

Billy: Getting dinner ready.

Officer: No, I mean when your dad was angry with her?

Billy: Oh, I don't know. She was definitely holding it but I don't remember anything else about that.

Officer: Ok bud, thanks for your help. Anything else you think we should know?

Billy: Not really. I'm just worried about my mom. She's always so scared of dad. Are we still having enchiladas?

Officer: I don't think so Billy. But speaking of enchiladas, I want to show you a picture and see if you recognize it. We're going to call it Exhibit 1. What is this?

Billy: This is a picture of the ingredients my mom was working on before this happened. I took it to post it on social media because I like sharing pictures of food.

Officer: Is this where the knife was after she was shot? On the counter?

Billy: No, this was before all of that. I think I saw the knife on the floor somewhere in the kitchen or the living room. I can't remember exactly. But it definitely was not on the kitchen counter.

Officer: Was there any blood on it or anything that looked like blood to you?

Billy: No, I don't remember seeing any blood on it or anything like that. It just looked like she was using it for making her famous enchiladas.

Officer: Alright, sit tight and we might come by and talk to you again.



STATEMENT OF MICHAEL JONES

On July 1, 2025, I, Officer Gerald Jackson III, Badge #422, interviewed witness, Michael Jones. He provided the following statement. Below is a full and complete transcript of that statement.

Officer: Alright Mr. Jones, do you know what we're here to talk about?

Michael: I think so.

Officer: And that is?

Michael: It's Amanda. I just can't believe this is really happening. Is she really gone?

Officer: She is. Wanna tell me what your relationship was like with Mrs. Saucedo?

Michael: Uh, sure. I knew her pretty well. Her son, little Billy, was taking piano lessons from me so we'd see each other about once a week when she'd bring him over to practice.

Officer: You sure you weren't giving Mrs. Saucedo any... lessons?

Michael: I don't know what you're talking about.

Officer: Let me put it to you straight – her husband seems to think you two were having an affair. Where would he get an idea like that?

Michael: Ok ok ok. I'm sorry this whole thing is just so embarrassing. Look, you're right. Amanda and I were more than just friends. We were in love. And before you say anything I know it's wrong, I felt horrible about that. But Amanda was such a wonderful woman and that jerk she was married too did not treat her right.

Officer: So how long were you and Mrs. Saucedo together?

Michael: Maybe two months? But things didn't really get serious until the last month or so.

Officer: Why do you say Mr. Saucedo's a jerk?

Michael: Have you met the guy?

Officer: Yeah, but I need to hear it from you.

Michael: Well, then you know he was! I only met him a handful of times when he would come to our piano recitals. Real winner, always drinking at them and yelling at Billy if he missed a note. But outside of that I haven't had a ton of interactions with him. I just know what Amanda said.

Officer: And what did she say?

Michael: Nothing good. Jesse was a total hot head. Always screaming at her for the smallest things –dinner was late, she didn't clean the house the way he liked, you name it he yelled about it. And I think things might have gotten physical too.

Officer: What do you mean by physical?

Michael: He beat her, I'm sure of it.

Officer: How are you so sure?

Michael: One time Amanda came here and she just looked different. She had on way more makeup than usual. I asked her what was happening and she started to cry. That's when the makeup wore off and I could see the shiner he'd given her.

Officer: How do you know it was Mr. Saucedo that did that to her?

Michael: She basically told me! Said he got mad about some enchiladas she made having one too many chiles in it so he wacked her. Something about how he hated enchiladas. Real stand up guy he is. Who gets mad over enchiladas. I love enchiladas. Amanda was terrified of him, always worried he'd do something to really hurt her or even little Billy.

Officer: Was she ever violent with him?

Michael: Amanda? Absolutely not! She wouldn't hurt a fly!

Officer: Are you sure about that?

Michael: Ok, well there was this one time she talked about how she got arrested as a kid, like 15 years ago for getting into a fight and stabbing someone. But she told me that that was all self-defense. That it was all a misunderstanding.

Officer: Ok. Well, what about her relationship with Mr. Saucedo? Do you know if she was ever violent with her husband?

Michael: With Jesse? Violent with Jesse? Are you kidding?! She was too scared to even stick up for herself, she just sat there and took it. I wish she hadn't, especially now. I brought up the idea of her leaving him but she wouldn't listen. She said she knew things weren't good but she didn't want to break up her family.

Officer: Alright. Do you think Jesse knew about the affair?

Michael: I don't see how he would. We tried to think things on the down low. But if he did find out... let's just say I don't think he was going to let Amanda walk away. If he couldn't have her, no one could.

Officer: Before we wrap up, I want to ask you about this screenshot we got from your phone. Let's call it Exhibit 2. Can you describe this?

Michael: That's a screenshot of some text messages between Amanda and myself. I don't remember the exact date but this was a day or two before she was murdered by that scumbag of a human. He killed the love of my life!

Officer: Were there any other relevant texts?

Michael: No, not really. We kept it PG. We tried to have most of our conversations over the phone or in person. I think we both knew what could happen if we got caught. I just never that it would actually happen.

Officer: Got it. Well don't go too far, we might have some more questions for you down the line.



STATEMENT OF JESSE SAUCEDO

On July 1, 2025, I, Officer Daniel Danyelson, Badge #148, interviewed suspect Jesse Saucedo. I advised Mr. Jesse Saucedo about all of his Miranda rights and he voluntarily waived all of them. He provided the following statement. Below is a full and complete transcript of that statement.

Officer: What happened?

Jesse: I don't know what you're talking about. I don't know what happened. It was all... It was all just a blur. My wife and I got into an argument that's all. That's all I remember.

Officer: If it was just an argument, then how did she end up dead?

Jesse: Ok, look. I might have had too much to drink, ok? They call them Four Lokos for a reason, am I right? I was out of it. I had 4 of them and I just lost it. I couldn't see straight.

Officer: That's not what witnesses say happened.

Jesse: Who?! Who's the snitch!? Tell me! Now! Dead men tell no tales, I always say!

Officer: Calm down. Calm down. Let's focus on what happened.

Jesse: Ok. Sorry, I get heated easily. Especially when someone is lying about what I did.

Officer: Ok. What happened?

Jesse: I got home and saw my wife in the kitchen making dinner. My brother was also at our house because he just got out of prison and needed a place to stay. I kissed her and told her I was going to wash up before dinner. You see, I work at the local animal rescue shelter and sometimes, those poor little things can get a little messy. As I was in our bedroom, I got a text message from a number I didn't recognize that came with a video. The video showed my wife having an affair with another man. I don't want to get into the details—I respect my wife. But as soon as I saw that it was like I blacked out.

Officer: What do you mean?

Jesse: I felt out of it. That's the best way I can describe it.

Officer: Well, what happened after that?

Jesse: It was all a blur but I just remember grabbing my gun that was in my nightstand, loading it, and heading to the kitchen to confront my wife. I wasn't going to shoot her. I just wanted to scare her so she would never do something like this again.

Officer: What happens after that?

Jesse: I go into the kitchen and I scream at her. I don't remember what I said, but I'm sure it wasn't nice. I don't remember ever pointing the gun at her. I think I was keeping it down by my side. I confronted her about her cheating. She denied it. We continued screaming at each other. That's when she picked up the knife and started charging after me. The next thing I remember is hearing loud popping sounds. I didn't realize what had happened.

Officer: What do you mean you didn't realize, you fired 6 shots!?

Jesse: She was coming after me! What do you expect me to do?! She's not as nice as you think. She was nasty when she didn't get what she wanted. And she hated animals. She hated that I worked with those poor little guys. She used to say that I loved them more than I loved her. Who knows?

Officer: Well, if you're so innocent, why did you run?

Jesse: I was scared. I ran and hid down the street because I was scared.

Officer: Scared of what? You had the gun, and she was dead in your house? We found you hiding in a bush.

Jesse: I was just scared ok!? Do you have a problem with that!? Do you wanna start something!?

Officer: Calm down! Calm down! No need to get angry and lunge at me.

Jesse: I didn't lunge at you. How could I lunge at you? I'm handcuffed to this table. You're the one who is yelling!

Officer: Okay, okay. Let's move on to another topic. What did you do with the gun?

Jesse: That's the thing, I was so scared, I just dropped it and ran. I left it in the house.

Officer: I think one of my officers found your gun inside the house in the kitchen but let's confirm. I am going to show you a picture, let's call it Exhibit 3. What is this?

Jesse: That's a photo of my gun. That's my pride and joy.

Officer: Pride and joy? Don't you have a kid?

Jesse: Well, yeah, after the kid, sure.

Officer: And your dead wife?

Jesse: Are we done here?

Officer: I'll move on. What about your cellphone? Why did you destroy it when it could corroborate your story about the text message and video?

Jesse: I destroyed it because I didn't want to get in trouble for the stuff I had on there.

Officer: Get in trouble for what?

Jesse: I sell weed on the side to help pay the bills. It's rough out there, ok. Plus, you would just accuse me anyway. Just like what you are doing now.

Officer: Fine, just tell us who sent that video, and we'll talk to them to confirm your story.

Jesse: I don't know. I don't know who sent that video. I already told you it came from some random number that I have never seen before in my life.

Officer: What about the area code? Part of the number? Anything? Your wife's dead and you're not being very helpful.

Jesse: You want me to help? Talk to my brother, he saw the whole thing. He'll tell you what you need to hear.

Officer: Wasn't he just released after serving time for committing perjury?

Jesse: That's right, Saucedo bros know the code – snitches get stiches.

Officer: Some code to live by.

Jesse: That's it. I'm done here, I want to talk to my lawyer.

Officer: Fine. Your life. We're done here.

Jesse: Fine!



STATEMENT OF JOHN SAUCEDO

On July 1, 2025, I, Officer Gerald Jackson III, Badge #422, interviewed witness John Saucedo. He provided the following statement. Below is a full and complete transcript of that statement.

Officer: How do you know Jesse Saucedo?

John: He's my big brother.

Officer: The two of you close?

John: Obviously. I would do anything for that guy. As the saying goes, blood is thicker than water. I was bullied when I was younger and he would always stick up for me. Let's just say, any time someone would try to pick a fight with me, once I told them who my big brother was, they wouldn't touch me. But if they did...well...he would quickly put an end to it.

Officer: So you're saying he's been violent since he was a kid?

John: I never said that. You're putting words in my mouth. Let's just say he had a very successful conflict resolution system.

Officer: Sure. Let's talk about the day he murdered his wife.

John: He didn't do nothin'! She did that to herself!

Officer: She shot herself 6 times?

John: You know what I mean! She stepped out on her man and thought that she wouldn't get caught. Why else do you think he got so upset?

Officer: So she deserved to get shot?

John: No, I'm not saying that. Just don't step out on your man then come at him with a knife when he confronts you.

Officer: Let's break that down. What happened?

John: Ok. I was staying at my brother's place until I could figure out my situation since I got released from prison. I was sleeping on the couch when I woke up in the evening to see my brother walk through the door after coming home from work. Amanda was in the kitchen, making dinner. Jesse goes up to her to give her a kiss and she turned away. I don't know if she was mad at him or if he just smelled like those animals he takes care of all day. She hates those animals and hates that he works with them. She's a heartless you know what.

Officer: Sure. What happened next?

John: He muttered something angrily under his breath and walked to their bedroom.

Officer: What happened after that?

John: He was in there for a few minutes and that's when I heard him say something like "Are you kidding me...That's it!!" Then I hear what sounds like him rummaging around his bedroom as if he was looking for something. That lasted at least a few minutes.

Officer: What happened next?

John: I see and hear him slam open their bedroom door. He almost blew the door off the hinges. He was mad. Then I see him walk out of their bedroom and yell something like "You cheating piece of..." That's when she turned around with the knife in her hand that she was using to make dinner.

Officer: Did you see a gun in his hand?

John: I did, but he never pointed it at her. Not until she pointed the knife at him. That's when she said, "Who told you that?!" Then my brother said something like, "It doesn't matter!"

Officer: Then what happened?

John: She screamed "Tell me!" and lunged at him with the knife. The next thing I hear is gunshots and then I saw her fall to the ground. It sounded like 6 shots right after the other. After that, he ran off and someone called the cops.

Officer: What did you do? Did you try to stop any of it?

John: Stop it!? What are you talking about? How could I stop something like that? It all happened so fast. And she was coming at him. What else was he supposed to do!? What was I supposed to do!?

Officer: Where was Billy during all of this?

John: Who is Billy?

Officer: Their kid! Amanda and Jesse's kid.

John: Oh, that little trouble maker?

Officer: Why do you say that?

John: Because he can't be trusted! He's always getting in trouble at school. Late for class, not showing up to class at all, accusing me of taking his money. What grown adult is going to take money from a 9 year-old?

Officer: Ok, so where was he during all of this?

John: He was outside, playing baseball or something. Kid thought he was going to make it to the big leagues. What a joke. The kid couldn't hit the broad side of a barn if his life depended on it.

Officer: I want to ask you about a post you made on social media just a few days after shooting. Let's call it Exhibit 4. Is this a post you made on Y?

John: Yes. But that's all talk. I'm telling you the truth right now!

Officer: Sure you are. What about the video?

John: What video?

Officer: The video.

John: What video? There's a video? Of what? Says who? Someone snitching?! Not after I'm done with them!

Officer: Calm down. Calm down. The video your brother says he saw while he was in his bedroom.

John: Oh. Yeah. That video. That video. Um. Yeah. That video is just like he described.

Officer: How did he describe it?

John: You know. Like he said. It had things and stuff on it and it showed other things and stuff.

Officer: Stuff? Things?

John: Yeah, you know?

Officer: Ok, I think we're done here. You can leave now.

JURY INSTRUCTIONS

Introduction to Jury Instructions

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, your duty is to decide the facts of this case based on the evidence presented in the courtroom. It is my job, as the judge, to instruct you on the law that you must apply to those facts. You must follow all of my instructions. Do not let any personal opinions about the law influence your decision.

The defendant, Jesse Saucedo, is presumed innocent until proven guilty. The State has the burden of proving every element of the crime charged beyond a reasonable doubt. A "reasonable doubt" is not a mere possible doubt. It is a doubt based on reason and common sense. It is the kind of doubt that would make a reasonable person hesitate to act in the most important of their own affairs.

The Charge of Murder

The defendant, Jesse Saucedo, is charged with the crime of murder. The prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant committed this crime.

Elements of Murder

To find the defendant guilty of murder, you must find that the State has proven each of the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

- The defendant caused the death of Amanda Saucedo.
- The defendant acted with malice aforethought.

Malice aforethought can be shown in one of four ways:

- The defendant had the specific intent to kill Amanda Saucedo.
- The defendant intended to inflict serious bodily injury upon Amanda Saucedo.
- The defendant acted with a wanton disregard for human life. This is also known as "depraved heart" malice.
- The defendant caused the death of Amanda Saucedo while committing another felony, such as assault with a deadly weapon.

If you find that the State has proven all of these elements beyond a reasonable doubt, you must find the defendant guilty of murder.

Self-Defense

The defendant has raised the issue of self-defense. A person may use deadly force in self-defense if they reasonably believe such force is necessary to prevent death or great bodily harm to themselves.

For the defendant to have acted in self-defense, the following conditions must be met:

- The defendant must have a reasonable belief that they are in immediate danger of being killed or seriously injured.
- The defendant must have an honest belief that deadly force is necessary to defend against that danger.
- The amount of force used must be no more than is reasonably necessary to defend against the threat.

The State must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant did not act in self-defense. If the State fails to do so, you must find the defendant not guilty.

Evaluating the Evidence

You are the sole judges of the facts and the credibility of the witnesses. In evaluating the evidence, you should consider the following:

Witness Credibility: Consider a witness's demeanor, memory, and any personal interest or bias they may have in the outcome of the case.

Conflicting Evidence: If there is conflicting testimony, it is your job to decide which version of the events is more believable.

Circumstantial Evidence

The State may have presented evidence of circumstances that you can use to infer certain facts. This is known as circumstantial evidence. It is a valid form of evidence, but any inferences you draw must be reasonable.

Defendant's Statement

You have heard the defendant's statement. You must weigh this statement like any other evidence. You should consider the circumstances under which the statement was made, and whether it is consistent with other evidence in the case.

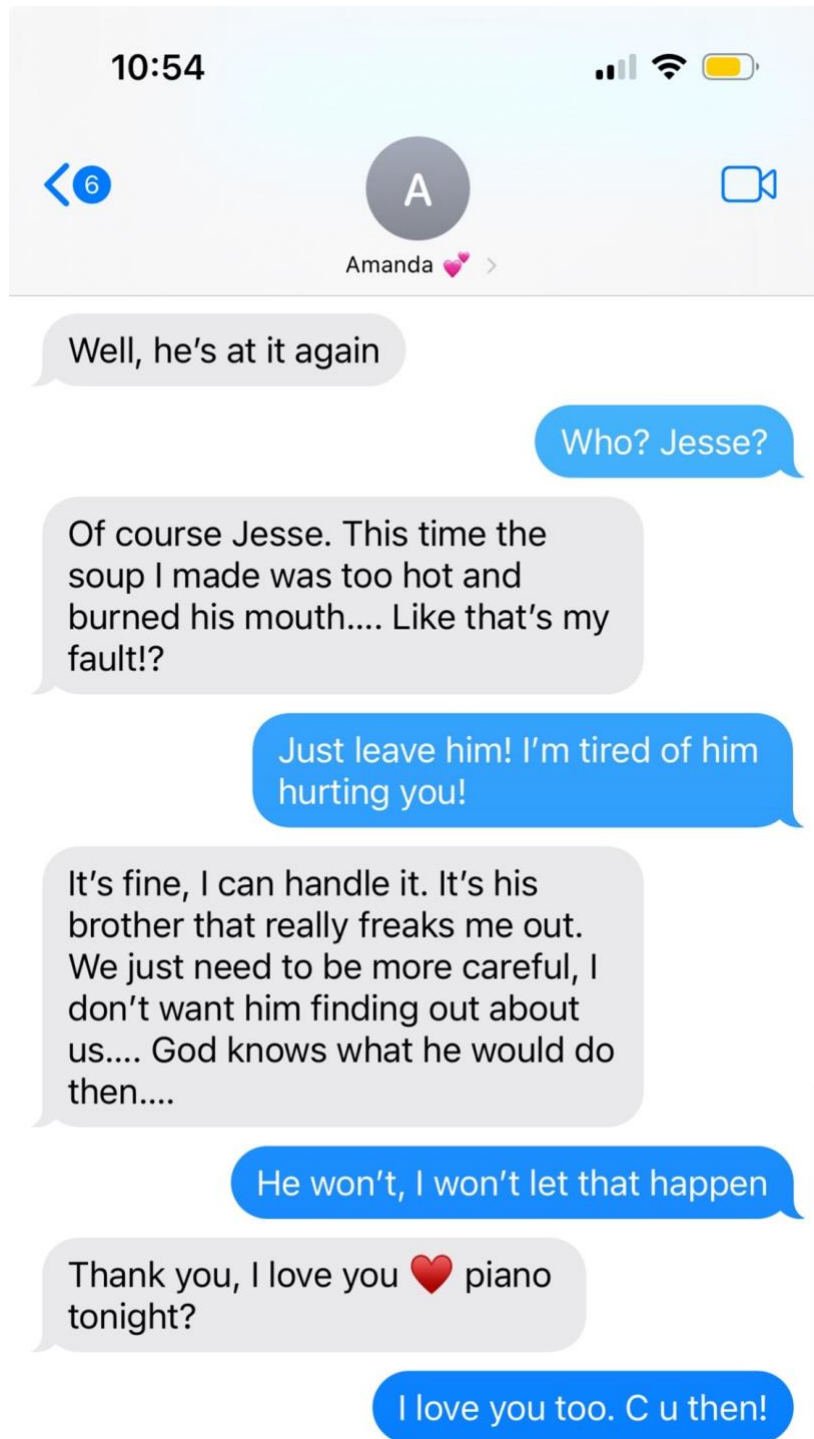


EXHIBIT 2



EXHIBIT 3

Y

John Saucedo

I don't know what you've heard but my brother is innocent. I'll do anything for my brother. Lie. Cheat. Steal. Blood is thicker than water. Dead men tell no tales.

EXHIBIT 4